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# ASSASSIN'S — C R E E D —



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**TITAN**  
COMICS



# ASSASSIN'S CREED

## + TRIAL BY FIRE

Now that Charlotte has seen all the events her ancestor Tom Stoddard was part of, she realizes that the team have been operating under a mistaken assumption... one that could cost Galina and Xavier their lives!

With the safety of the cell in jeopardy, it's time for Charlotte to find out if she really has what it takes to be a member of the Assassin Brotherhood...

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YOU'RE  
NOT A FIELD  
AGENT.

THAT'S WHY  
I *SHOULD* DO THIS.  
THE TEMPLARS DON'T  
KNOW ME.

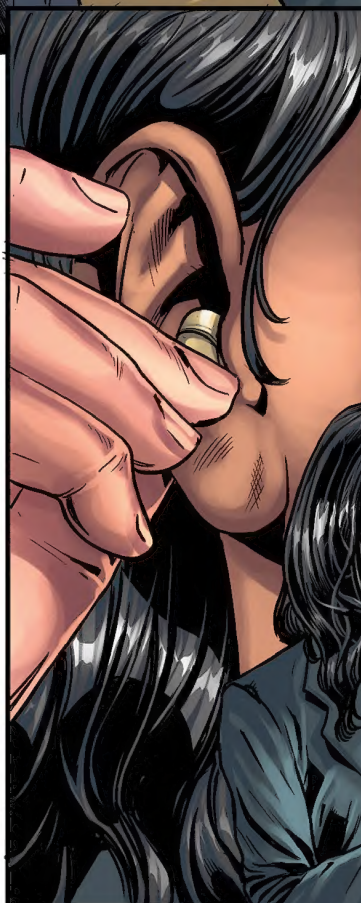
THEY KNOW  
YOUR NAME, THEY  
KNOW WHERE  
YOU LIVED.



KODY,  
THIS IS THE  
WORST PEP  
TALK EVER.

IT'S NOT  
JUST THE TEMPLARS.  
JOSEPH HAD OVER  
60 KILLS AS AN  
ASSASSIN.

I HAD SOME  
BASIC COMBAT  
TRAINING, BUT YOU'VE  
SPENT TOO LONG  
IN THE ANIMUS.  
LET ME--



YOU'RE C-3P0,  
REMEMBER? THE  
ONE IN THE CONTROL  
ROOM WHO KEEPS  
THE REST OF US FROM  
GETTING SQUISHED  
IN THE TRASH  
COMPACTOR.

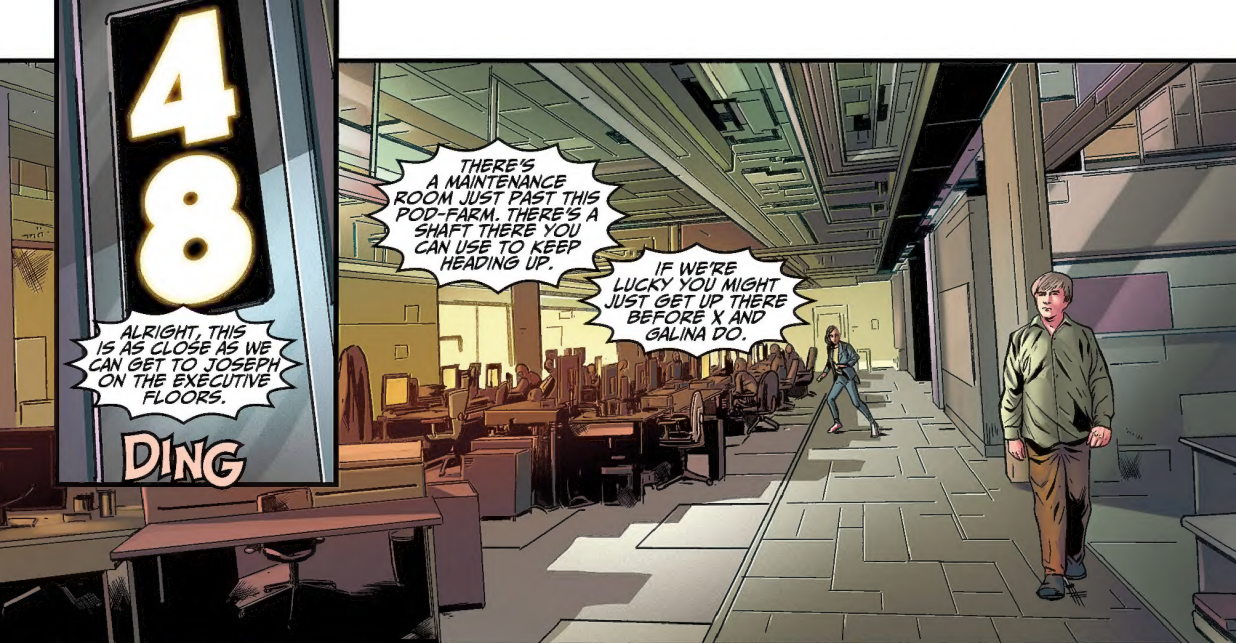


YEAH, BUT  
ARTOO WAS IN THAT  
CONTROL ROOM,  
TOO. HE WASN'T  
BUILT TO FIGHT.

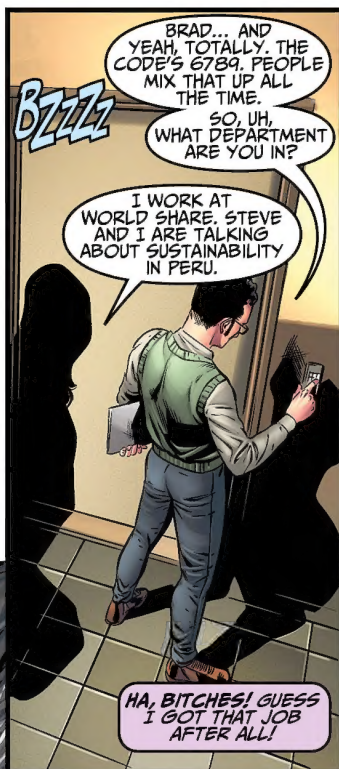
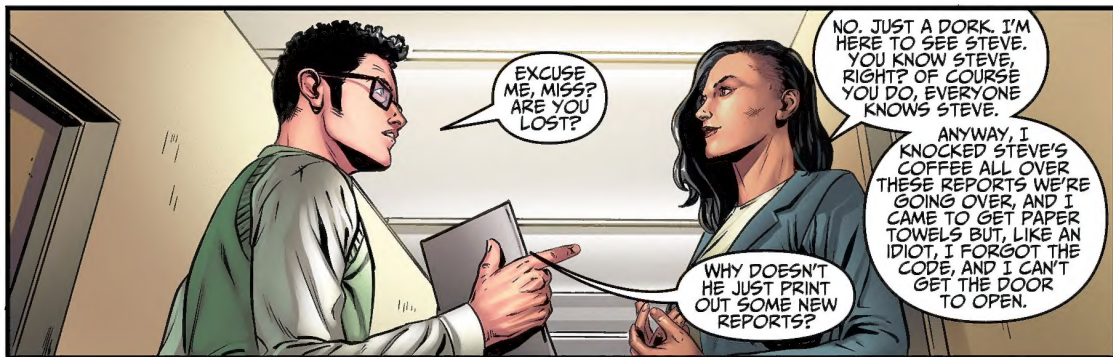




















SO, YOUR BROTHERHOOD HAVE COME, JOSEPH -- JUST AS YOU PLANNED. WILL YOU KEEP YOUR BARGAIN?

ONCE I'M STANDING OVER XAVIER'S CORPSE, I'LL TELL YOU WHERE THE GIRL'S REMAINS ARE IN SALEM.

I'LL EVEN GIVE YOU A BONUS: CHARLOTTE. I CAN DELIVER HER TOO.

SHE'S HERE?



YES. I CAN TELL.

THEN WHY DO WE NEED YOU?

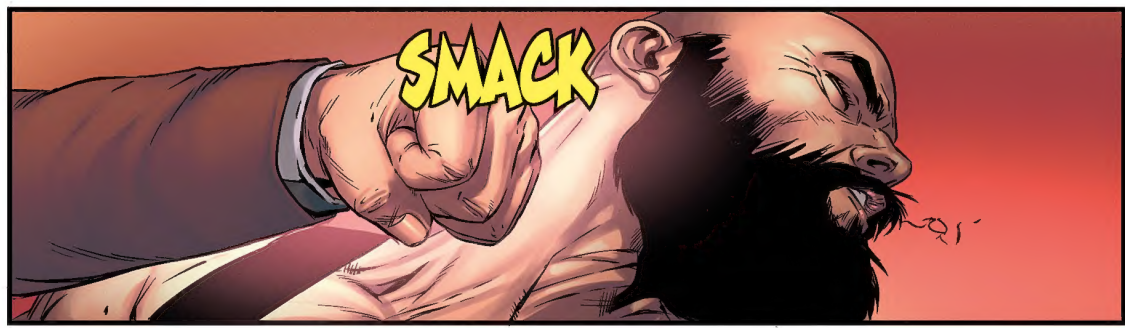
SHE'D NEVER TRUST YOU. I KNOW WHAT SHE EXPERIENCED IN SALEM. I KNOW HOW TO REACH HER.

MAYBE WE JUST TAKE HER FROM YOU.



IF YOU THINK THAT WOULD WORK.

NOW HIT ME.



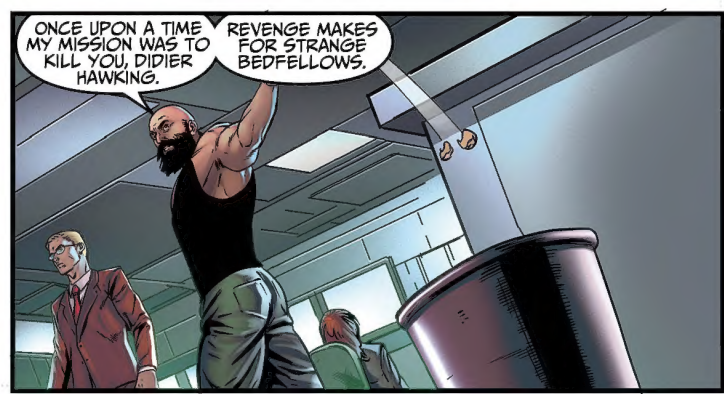
SMACK



GOOD. NOW I LOOK LIKE I'VE SEEN THE BEST OF TEMPLAR HOSPITALITY.

IT'S FUNNY.

WHAT IS?



ONCE UPON A TIME MY MISSION WAS TO KILL YOU, DIDIER HAWKING.

REVENGE MAKES FOR STRANGE BEDFELLOWS.





YOU'RE DOING WELL! ONLY ANOTHER EIGHT FLOORS.

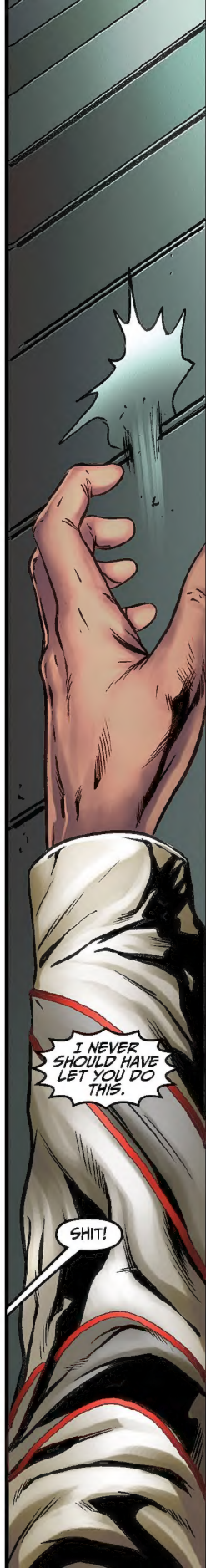
ONLY... EIGHT...? I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS... WAS GOING TO BE... TOUGH...

YOU OKAY, CHARP? YOU DON'T SOUND GOOD.



KODY, I'M GETTING REALLY DIZZY...

CRAP. IT'S ALL THE TIME IN THE ANIMUS.



I NEVER SHOULD HAVE LET YOU DO THIS.

SHIT!



CHARP CHARP!

OH GOD! NO! NO! NO!

CHAR, SPEAK TO ME!





DON'T PANIC!



ANOTHER SHAFT!  
GOTTA GET TO IT.



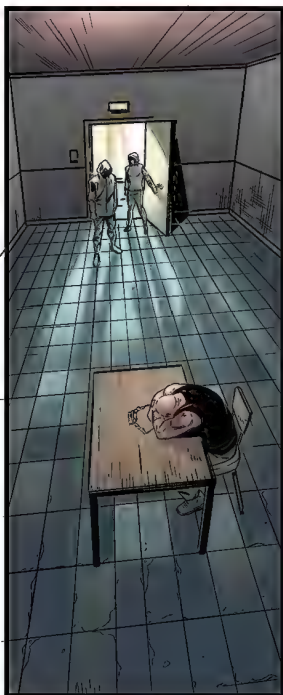
THE BLEEDING EFFECT, IF YOU SPEND ENOUGH TIME WITH YOUR ANCESTORS, YOU KINDA PICK UP THEIR SKILLS.



THEY'RE PROBABLY ALMOST THERE. IF I QUIT, THEY DIE.

I TOLD GALINA "I'M IN".













I GUESS  
THEY WERE  
WRONG.

AGGGH!

SNAP

I GUESS  
THAT'S A MATTER  
OF OPINION.

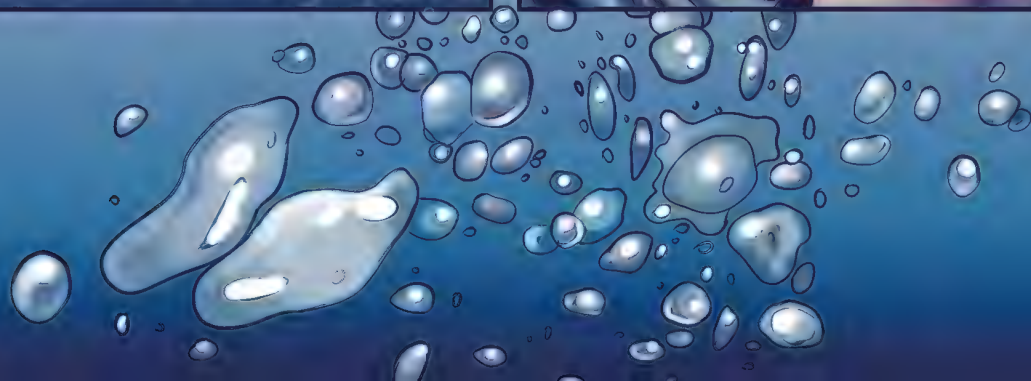
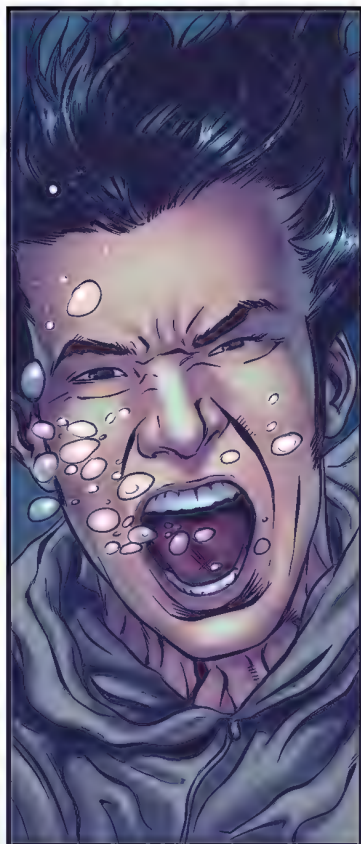
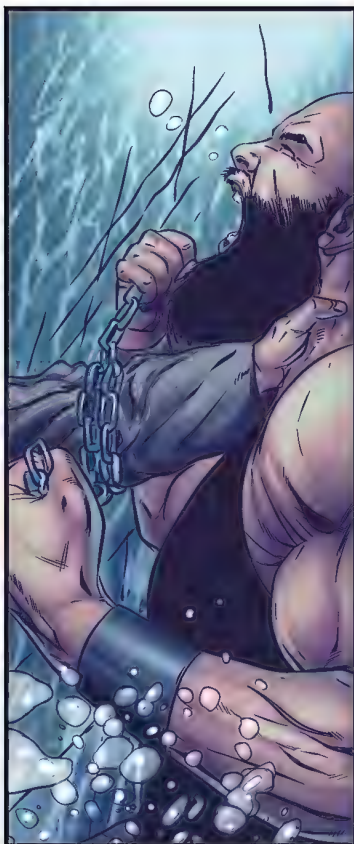
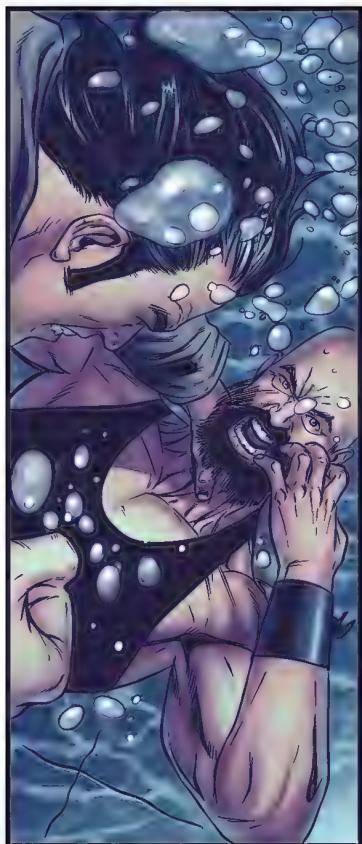
I  
ALWAYS  
KNEW YOU  
WERE  
WEAK.

HRAAA!

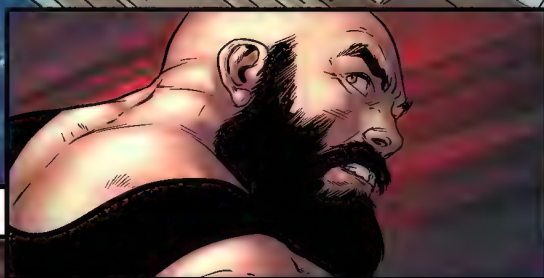
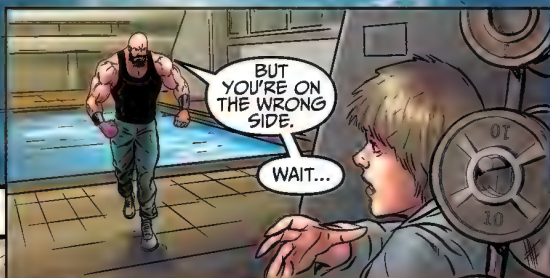
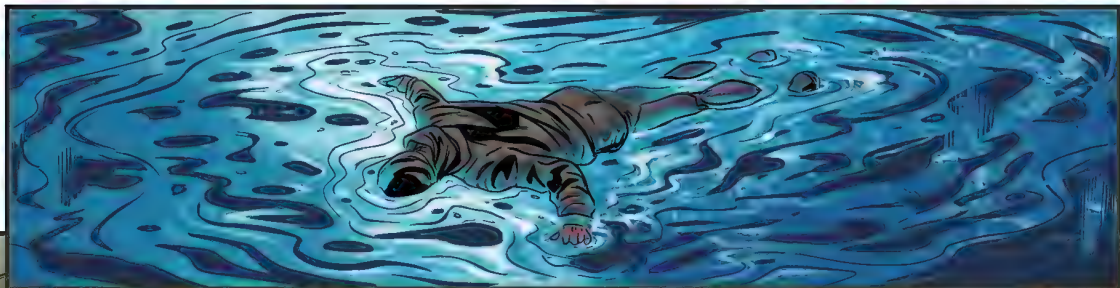
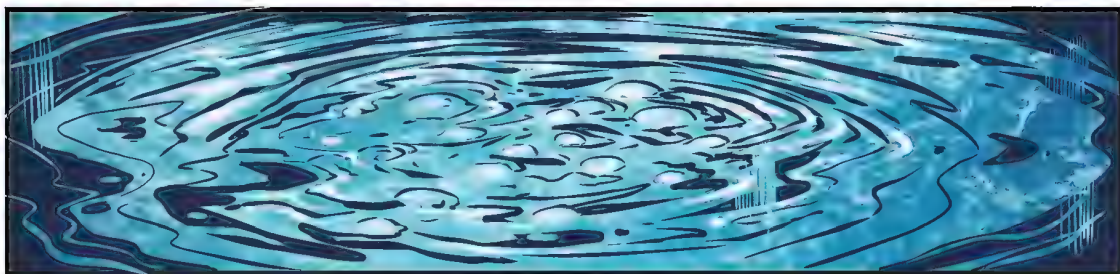
RIGHT  
NOW? I'M  
FEELING  
RATHER  
STRONG.

SPLASH

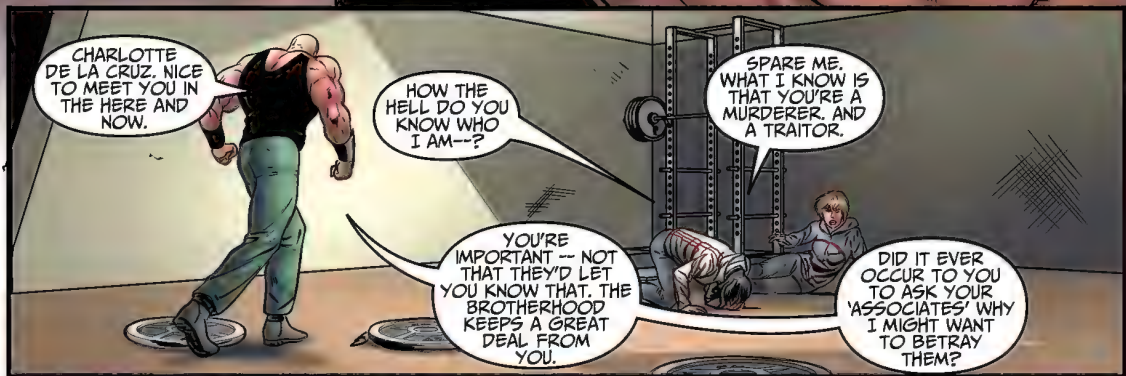
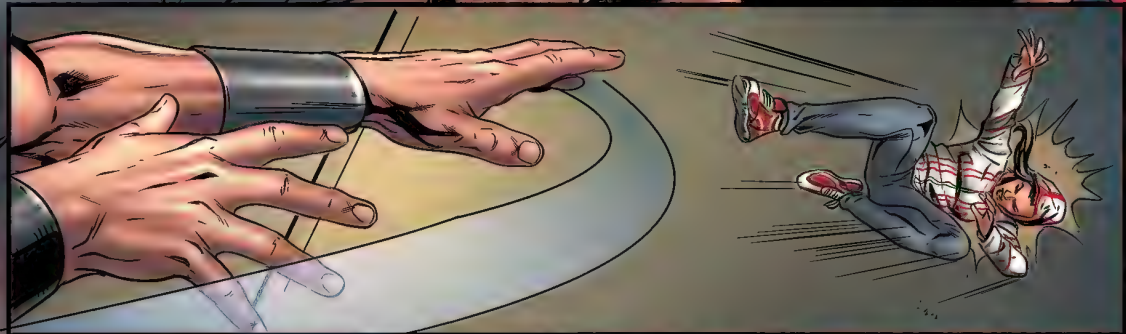
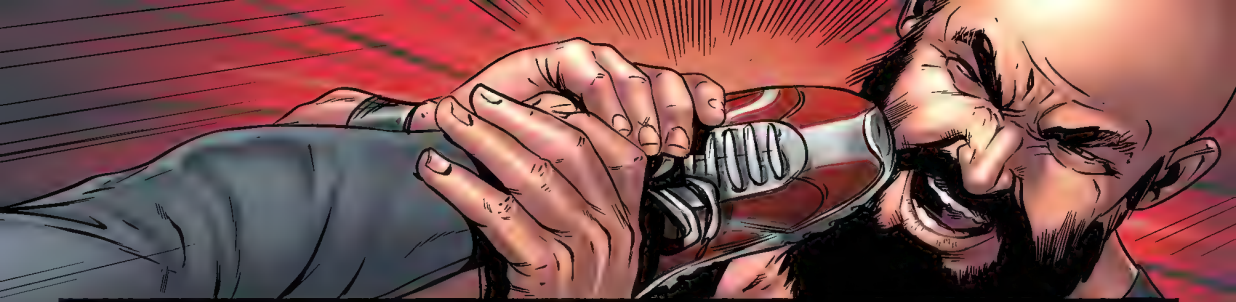
















WEAKENED BY LOVE? CAN YOU IMAGINE SUCH A THING, CHARLOTTE?

XAVIER COULD HAVE TOLD ME CHRISTIAN WAS IN DANGER, BUT HE DIDN'T, BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT WOULD PULL ME AWAY FROM OUR PRECIOUS MISSION.

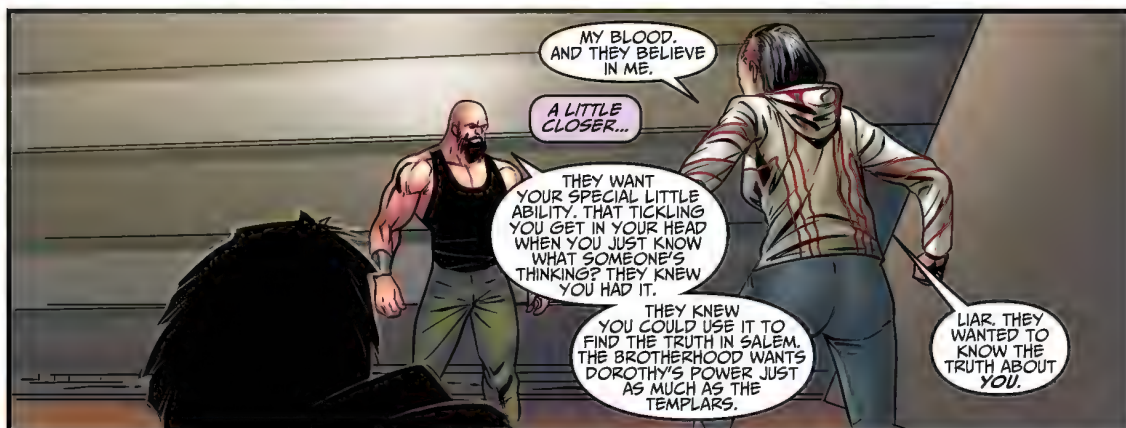


THERE!

JUST LIKE STODDARD IGNORED THOSE WOMEN, LEFT THAT BOY TO DIE, ALL IN THE NAME OF DUTY.

THE BROTHERHOOD IS USING YOU, CHARLOTTE. HAVE THEY TOLD YOU WHY THEY REALLY WANTED YOU?

KEEP HIM TALKING, CHAR.



MY BLOOD, AND THEY BELIEVE IN ME.

A LITTLE CLOSER...

THEY WANT YOUR SPECIAL LITTLE ABILITY. THAT TICKLING YOU GET IN YOUR HEAD WHEN YOU JUST KNOW WHAT SOMEONE'S THINKING? THEY KNEW YOU HAD IT.

THEY KNEW YOU COULD USE IT TO FIND THE TRUTH IN SALEM. THE BROTHERHOOD WANTS DOROTHY'S POWER JUST AS MUCH AS THE TEMPLARS.

LIAR. THEY WANTED TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU.



I'M JUST A SIDELINE.

NO! NOT NOW!

THE BROTHERHOOD ALWAYS GET WHAT THEY WANT, REGARDLESS OF THE COST.

LOOK AT YOU, CHARLOTTE, YOU CAN BARELY STAND.

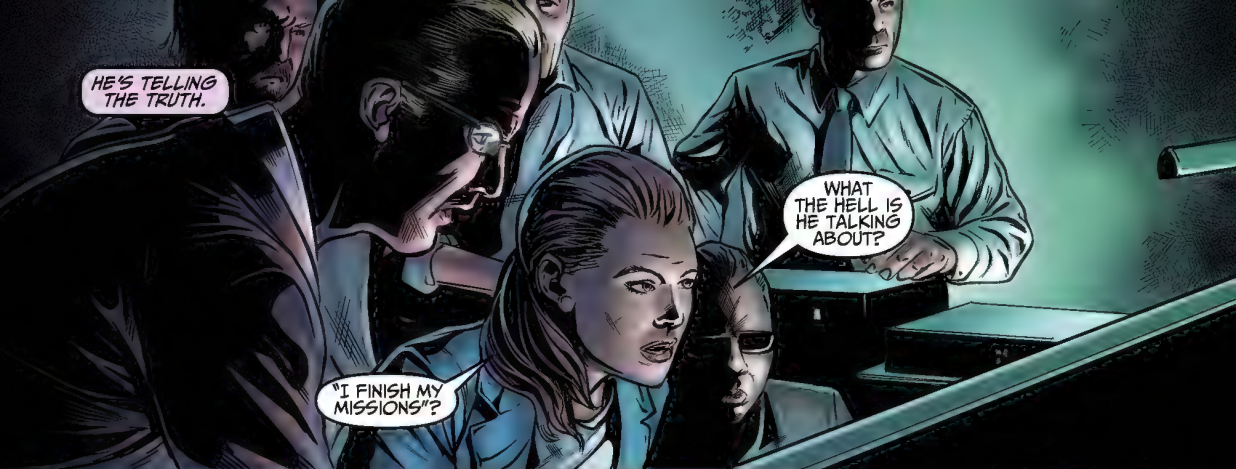


SO WHAT'S THE OTHER OPTION? JOIN THE TEMPLARS LIKE YOU?

NO, YOU MISUNDERSTAND. DESPITE EVERYTHING, I'M A GOOD SOLDIER. I FINISH MY MISSIONS.

THAT TICKLING... I FEEL IT...





HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.

WHAT THE HELL IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

"I FINISH MY MISSIONS"?



RUN!  
RUN!



AAAAHHH!



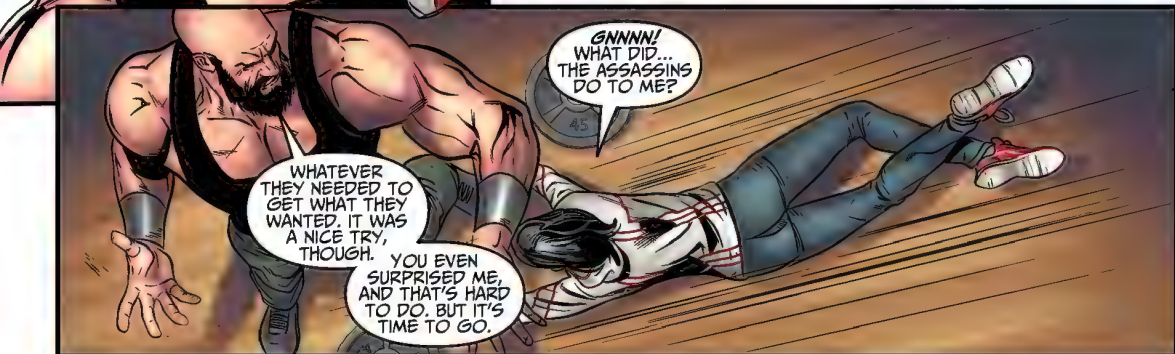
**BRAAA!  
BRAAA!**



C'MON,  
CHAR.



GO!



GNNNN!  
WHAT DID...  
THE ASSASSINS  
DO TO ME?

WHATEVER  
THEY NEEDED  
TO GET WHAT THEY  
WANTED, IT WAS  
A NICE TRY,  
THOUGH.

YOU EVEN  
SURPRISED ME,  
AND THAT'S HARD  
TO DO. BUT IT'S  
TIME TO GO.



THE  
BROTHERHOOD IS  
RIGHT ABOUT ONE  
THING. WE HAVE A  
TREMENDOUS GIFT.  
I'M GOING TO  
TEACH YOU HOW  
TO USE IT.

I WON'T  
LET THEM TWIST  
YOU SO YOU  
BECOME LIKE  
STODDARD.

LET  
GO OF  
ME!



YOU MEAN  
NOTHING TO  
THEM. THEY DIDN'T  
EVEN GIVE YOU  
A HIDDEN  
BLADE.

YOU'RE  
RIGHT... THEY  
DIDN'T GIVE  
ME ONE.



BUT YOU'RE  
WRONG ABOUT  
SURPRISING YOU...  
IT'S NOT THAT  
HARD.





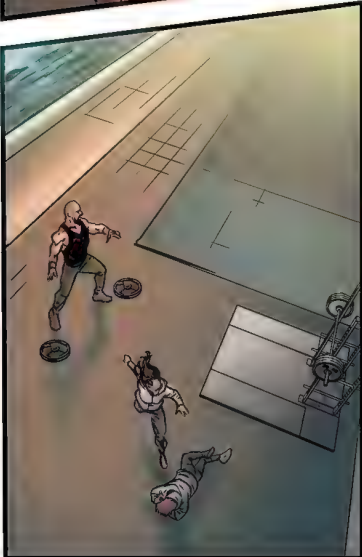
SOMEONE -- A LOT OF SOMEONES -- ARE COMING, AND THEY DON'T MEAN ANYTHING GOOD.



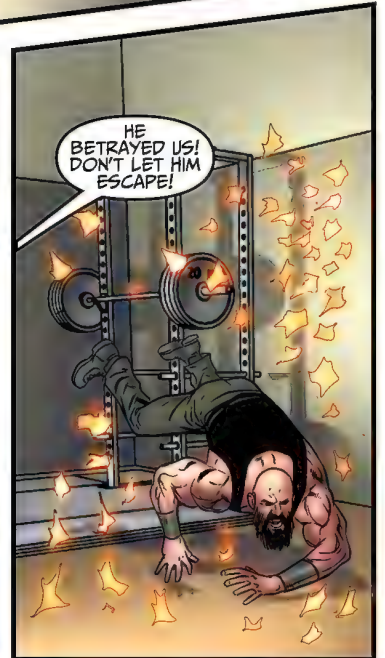
YOU DIDN'T WATCH TO THE END, DID YOU, BUDDY? STODDARD ENDED UP FIGURING IT OUT.

THERE'S SO MUCH YOU DON'T KNOW. ABOUT HIM. ABOUT WHAT MUST COME NEXT. I HAVE SO MUCH TO TEACH YOU.

WE'LL START WITH HOW NOT TO MISS THE MAN WHO'S GOING TO BREAK YOUR LEGS AND CARRY YOU OUT.

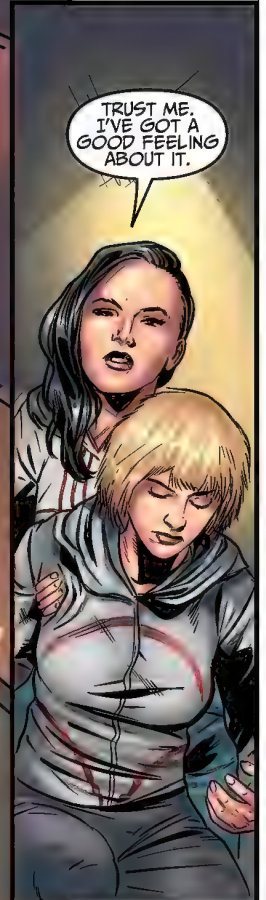
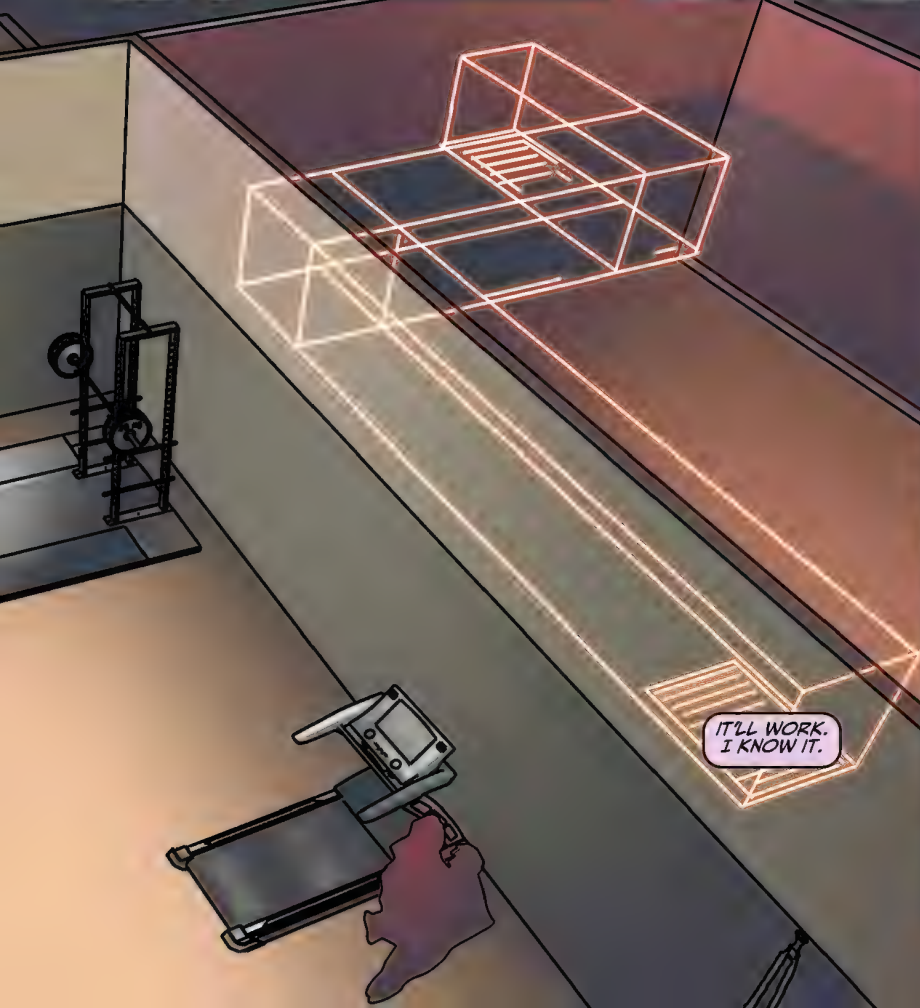
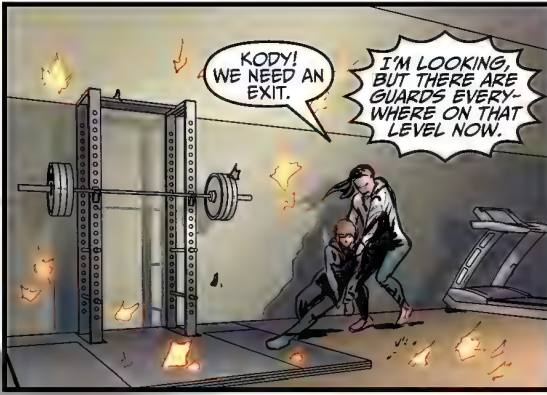


THERE HE IS!



HE BETRAYED US! DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!

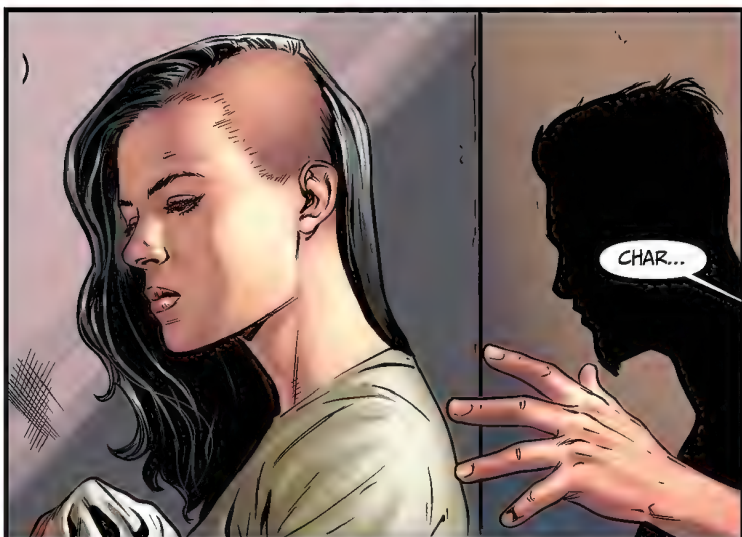
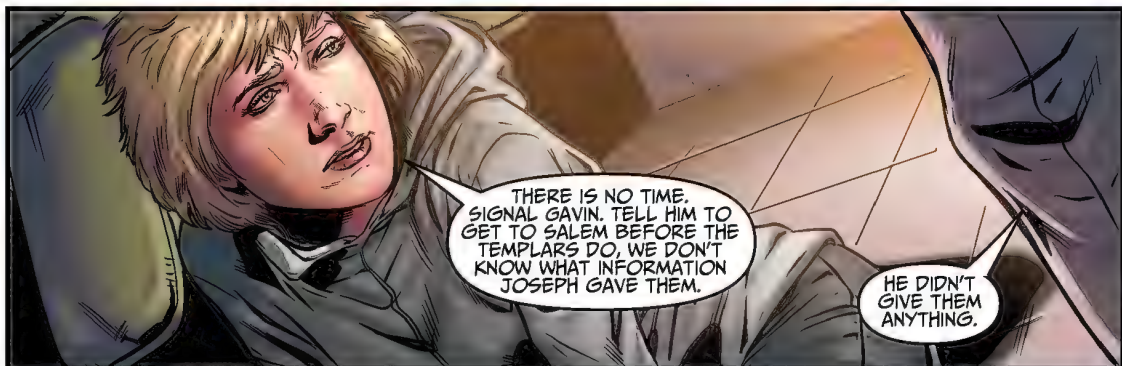
















I KILLED  
SOMEONE,  
KODY!



WHAT?



THAT GUY YOU TOLD ME  
NOT TO TALK TO! HE HAD  
ASTHMA AND I TAPED UP  
HIS HANDS AND HIS FACE  
SO HE COULDN'T GET  
HIS PUFFER.

HIS NAME WAS BRAD.  
HE HAD A MEDIC ALERT  
BRACELET BUT I  
MISSED IT...

XAVIER DIED...  
JOSEPH ESCAPED...  
WHAT WAS IT ALL  
FOR?

YOU  
SAVED  
MY LIFE,  
GIRL.



FANTASTIC.  
I SAVED A  
PSYCHO.

TELL ME THE  
TRUTH. WAS THIS ABOUT  
JOSEPH? OR FINDING  
SOME POWER IN THE  
PAST?

I AM A  
SOLDIER, NOT A  
GENERAL.

WHAT, YOU  
FEEL NOW? LOSS?  
ANGER? IT MEANS  
YOU ARE TRUE  
ASSASSIN.

AMAZING...



I'M SO  
HAPPY...

TO BE CONTINUED...



# ASSASSIN'S CREED

## TRIAL BY FIRE

PART 5 OF 5

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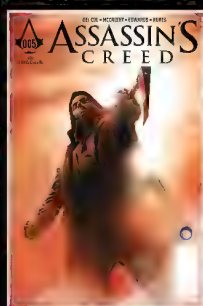
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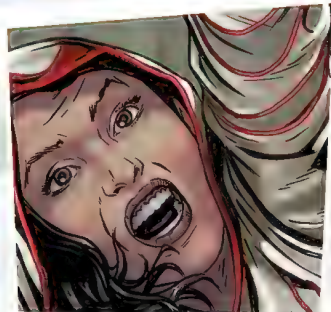
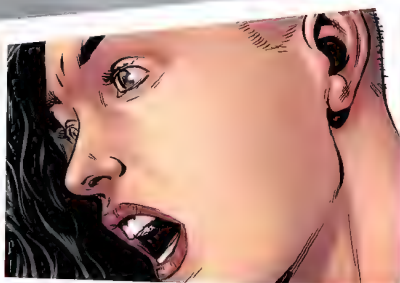
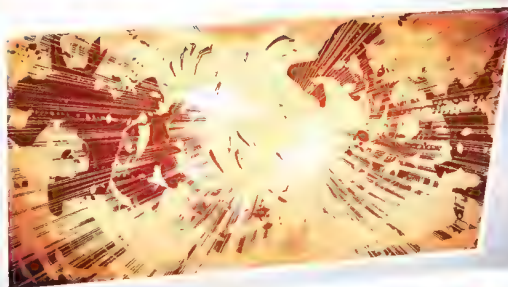


# NEXT ON SALE MARCH ISSUE



## BRAND NEW ARC, BRAND NEW MISSION...

In the first issue of a brand new story arc, Charlotte, Galina and Kody are reeling from the loss of Xavier. Isolated, under threat, and being watched, they need something to hope for... but can Charlotte reconcile herself to the realities of the dark and dangerous world she has found herself in?



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# SALEM

## THE END, THE AFTERMATH AND THE LEGACY...

In the early months of 1693, the last of the trials in Salem were taking place. The fervor of the first hearings had dwindled, and the court of Oyer and Terminer had been dissolved by Governor Phipps in October of the previous year. As the court slowly worked through the charges laid at the feet of those who remained in prison, public support for the trials diminished, and it seemed that the townspeople were slowly waking up to the horrors they had perpetrated. By May of 1693, all those still in prison on charges of witchcraft were released and pardoned.

The year of madness had ended. Lives had been lost. Strangely, however, the lives of the "afflicted girls" – the accusers responsible for the majority of the charges, continued much as they would have done had they never decided to portray themselves as victims. While the dissolving of the court brought a certain amount of closure to the events of 1692 and 1693, it is interesting to note that only one of the "afflicted" girls ever apologized for her part in the deaths of innocent people.

Ann Putnam Jr had accused sixty-two people of witchcraft, and finally issued

a public apology over a decade later, in 1706. Interestingly, her apology was couched in religious terms. She professed herself to be extremely sorry, and believed that, "It was a great delusion of Satan that deceived me in that sad time." The irony would be laughable, if it weren't so awful.

While none of the other girls accepted any blame at any point in their lives, twelve members of the jury did concede that their actions were "sadly deluded and mistaken." Samuel Parris did allow that he "may have been mistaken," in 1694, but the damage to his reputation had already been done, and he was replaced as minister for Salem Village in 1696. His reticence may have been due in part to the fact that his daughter, Betty Parris, was one of the first girls to make any accusations. Betty herself never faced any censure for her part in the trials, and the events had little effect on her at all. She went on to marry and have four children, never being persecuted for her behavior.

William Stoughton had been appointed Lieutenant Governor and Chief Justice of Massachusetts by Governor Phipps, and was head judge of the court of Oyer and Terminer



*The Salem Village Witchcraft Victims' Memorial of Danvers (formerly called Salem) was dedicated in 1992 and stands as a reminder that each generation must confront intolerance and "witch hunts" and must always seek the truth, as represented by weighty granite used in the construction of the monument. Commissioned to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the beginning of the hysteria.*

until it was dissolved. While many of his decisions were questionable, he was generally held to be a fair man. This was made very clear when Governor Phipps attempted to shift his portion of the blame onto Stoughton following the change in public opinion. He did this by chastising Stoughton in a letter to the King of England. This tactic backfired, as Phipps was recalled to England, where he died. Stoughton succeeded him as Governor of Massachusetts and served until his death in 1701.

The greatest indication of the horror the members of the community felt for their actions came in October 1711, when a Reversal of Attainder was signed into law by the Massachusetts legislature. Attainder, in English law, is the metaphorical "stain" caused by high treason or capital crimes. It essentially stripped the receiver of their rights. The order for reversal nullified all the judgments cast against the majority of those convicted. It was also decreed that reparations were to be paid to the

families and heirs. A sum totalling almost £600 was distributed, though only to those families that had specifically asked for it. The Reversal of Attainder applied only to those specifically named, and was not exhaustive. Over time, this oversight would be rectified, but when Elizabeth Johnson wrote to the committee asking that her name be included, as she too had been condemned, the committee demurred, on the basis that the business was finished with. It is unknown as to whether Johnson ever managed to clear her name.

In 1957, the Massachusetts Governor signed another bill into law, officially apologizing for the Salem Witch Trials and clearing the names of the remaining accused, though not stating them explicitly. This law was amended in 2001 to correct this error. Included in the correction was the name Bridget Bishop, finally cleared over three hundred years after she was the first person to be hanged.

THE END...





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